

Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law Abolishing the Position of Village Justice and the Village Court

November 12, 2013

Attendance:	Mayor Keegan	Attorney Crist
	Trustee Carner	Trustee Pratico
	Trustee Ryan	Trustee Martin
	Judge Paul Peter	Patricia Loomis
	Jan Peter	Barry Secor
	Maria Eastwood	Marjorie Hotaling

Mayor Keegan stated that the Village has been losing money on the Court for years and that the room is small and does not provide any privacy for all involved. The Town has proper accommodations.

Judge Peter asked how long the discussions about abolishing the court have been going on and Mayor Keegan answered about 1 ½ years. Judge Peter wanted to know why the Village out of courtesy had not mentioned this to the Village Court or the Town Court. Mayor Keegan stated it was mentioned to the Town Supervisor but not the Town Board. Judge Peter asked about the cost and workload that would be incurred by the Town. When a village abolishes the Village Justice the town of which the village is located in absorbs the cost and workload with no charge to the village.

Maria Eastwood thought that there was insufficient notice to speak on this matter or to inform the residents. She felt that just the legal presence of the Justice Court in the Village reduces crime.

Judge Peter said it has been an honor to hold the position of justice for the past 15 years. He has deep concern for the Village and the Town and that he will continue to serve the community.

Court Officer Barry Secor the possibility of increasing revenue by asking the Schodack and State Police to increase patrols in the Village.

At 7:40 pm, Trustee Carner motioned to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Mayor Keegan and carried.

Margaret Lill
Village Clerk